Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

“Integrity is a value that empowers the human being.” Justify with suitable illustration.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Integrity, honesty, consistency of values and conduct, moral courage, self-respect, trustworthiness, accountability, resistance to corruption, ethical leadership, public service

Model Answer

Introduction

Integrity means consistency between one's moral principles, words and actions. It involves honesty, sincerity and adherence to ethical standards even when wrongdoing offers personal benefits or escapes public scrutiny.

How Integrity Empowers Individuals

- **Inner strength:** A person with integrity can make decisions without being controlled by fear, greed or external pressure.
- **Self-respect:** Consistency between beliefs and conduct builds confidence and moral independence.
- **Trustworthiness:** Integrity earns the confidence of colleagues, citizens and institutions.
- **Moral courage:** It enables individuals to resist corruption, favouritism and unlawful instructions.
- **Credible leadership:** Ethical conduct inspires others and establishes a culture of accountability.
- **Long-term success:** Integrity supports sustainable relationships and professional credibility, even when ethical choices involve short-term costs.

Illustration

Suppose a public works engineer discovers that a contractor has used substandard materials and offers a bribe to conceal the defect. An engineer with integrity refuses the offer, records the deficiencies, reports the matter

through authorised channels and ensures corrective action. This protects public safety and demonstrates that professional duty outweighs personal gain.

Broader Significance

Integrity does not merely prevent wrongdoing; it enables people to exercise authority responsibly, make independent decisions and contribute to institutions that deserve public trust.

Conclusion

Integrity is an empowering value because it aligns personal conduct with ethical principles. It gives individuals the courage to do what is right, even under pressure, and makes them reliable agents of social and institutional progress.

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